

October 11, 2013

TO: Board of Managers of Chevy Chase Village

FROM: Parks and Green Spaces Committee

Judy Elliott and Susan Kilborn, Co-Chairs

Ten Committee members: 7 approve 2 abstain 1 dissent

RE: FIVE YEAR MASTER PLANS FOR THE PARKS AND
GREEN SPACES IN CHEVY CHASE VILLAGE

Please find enclosed the individual five year Master Plans for parks, green spaces and right-of-ways included in this submission to the Board for their approval. They are:

On the West side of Connecticut:

Bald Cypress Grove Right of Way,
Little Triangle Park at Oliver and Cedar Parkway,
Big Triangle Park at Oliver and Kirkside Drive,
Hesketh Street Right of Way

On the East side of Connecticut:

Betty English Garden
Brookville/Quincy Park,
Newlands Park.

Laurel Park is not being submitted at this time. There are complicating issues with Laurel Park. This park will be brought to the Board of Managers at a later date.

However, permission is sought tonight to add shrubs to the south end of Laurel Park in the Rain Garden by replacing some perennials with water-loving shrubs to increase the attractiveness of the area. The goal is to slow the velocity of street water run-off in this area by adding shrubs and water loving plants.

The Park and Green Spaces Committee's guiding goals for these parks and green spaces include an effort to:

- *Plant canopy trees that are native and drought tolerant species wherever possible
- *Simplify plantings for lower maintenance costs
- *Provide trashcans where there are doggie bag dispensers
- *Install benches where budget allows
- *Make parks ADA and Dark Sky Lighting compliant
- *Have maintenance programs for all of these green spaces include:
 - keeping trees and shrubs free of invasive ivy and vines,
 - watering trees & shrubs, pruning and mulching, arborizing;
 - lawn care to cover cutting grass, aerating, re-seeding and fertilizing.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Elliott
Susan Kilborn

Chevy Chase Village Five Year Master Plan
CYPRESS For GROVE
Right of Way in front of the Village Hall
Between Laurel Parkway and West Kirke Street
Drawn up by Parks and Green Spaces Committee
Members, Susie Eig and Bliss Ryan
July 2013

OVERALL ASSESSMENT: This park was planted in 2013 with twelve *bald cypress* trees chosen by Bliss Ryan and Susie Eig, co-chairs of the design committee for this Right of Way *and approved by the Board of Managers.*

It is recommended that the two benches designated for this space and given by a resident in honor of a relative be placed close to each other to give residents coming and going from the Village Hall a comfortable place to sit and talk. The committee put flags near the large tree to the West of the walkway through the space as a tentative location for the two benches. *Benches placement and design (whether metal and wood, all metal, all wood) are still under discussion for this Right of Way. Since the walkways currently are temporary it is thought that the placement of benches should come after the permanent walkways are installed.*

The goals are:

INVASIVE PLANTS: None

HARDSCAPE: The two benches mentioned above should be installed in such a way that there is something to put one's feet on. *Discussion of whether the placement of benches should be adjacent to the pathway or away from the pathway is ongoing.*

TREE HEALTH: They are well planted and have many years of health left to them we hope. *Arborizing the planted trees is a priority for appearance reasons and to keep foot traffic from being disrupted by low growing branches. A member of the committee has said the best season for trimming is August or during the winter.*

RECOMMENDATIONS: Install benches.

**Chevy Chase Village Five Year Master Plan
For
Park at Oliver and Cedar Parkway
(Little Triangle Park)
Drawn up by Parks and Green Spaces Committee
July 2013**

OVERALL ASSESSMENT: This park became a much more popular spot when two Benches were placed in the park. People now come to read here, or visit with friends or just sit.

The goals are:

INVASIVE PLANTS: Wisteria at the Cedar Parkway and Oliver Street end of the parks is overgrown and is endangering the health of the shrubs beside it. *The committee feels that the peonies, bushes beside the benches and wisteria should be removed from this small and well-used park.*

HARDSCAPE: The two benches have shrubs on either side that should be moved as they are overgrown and ugly. A kidney shaped bed should be created and expanded to include several of the trees near Oliver and Center streets to make the benches not look so haphazard. Fencing is not necessary for this park.

TREE HEALTH: There are eight mature trees. The trees are old. Most of them will need to be replaced in the next ten years as they die back or lose limbs to storms. White oak and Princeton Elms are long lasting trees to be considered. *Understory trees such as disease resistant dogwood, redbud are candidates to replace haphazard plantings of peonies and wisteria and several of the ailing trees here. It is noted that parks are not extensions of one's yard and plantings should be done with permission and in consultation with the Parks and Green Spaces Committee.*

RECOMMENDATIONS: Better defined spaces in this little park. Shrubs in the beds should be added as possible. Extending the beds to a kidney shape as suggested above will give the park better *definition and better visibility.*

LIGHTING: *There is sufficient light from streetlights to illuminate the park.*

MAINTENANCE: *Mulch and pruning the wisteria yearly until it is removed. Core aerating and re-seeding the grass.*

CITIZEN SCOUT: Gail Goodman 301 613-4927

**Chevy Chase Village Five Year Master Plan
For
Oliver/Kirkside Drive Park
(Big Triangle Park)
Drawn up by Parks and Green Spaces Committee
September 2013**

OVERALL ASSESSMENT: This is the most used park in the Village. Access to the park is easy and encourages residents to use it. There are four benches and wide-open spaces for *informal soccer, baseball and other games*. *Many residents bring their dogs to throw tennis balls or do training work for young dogs, but the committee would like to note that there is an all dogs on leash rule in the Village*. There are trees to climb and grass to run in, stumps to climb on. All ages use this park.

The goals in order of priority are:

INVASIVE PLANTS: Wisteria at the corner of Kirkside and Oliver is overgrown and is endangering the health of the shrubs beside the fence at that location. *The Committee feels that this vine should be removed to allow the shrubs more light and air space.*

HARDSCAPE: Split rail fence needs repairs. Some of the horizontal rails are not long enough to sit securely in the vertical posts so there are always fallen rails that need re-placing – probably due to climbing and well as rail length.) A fence around this heavily used park is useful.

TREE HEALTH: The trees recently planted are thriving. The white oak and Princeton Elm to replace a diseased American Elm cut down a few years ago are healthy. Along Kirkside Drive, some of the “trees” are really honeysuckle grown to trees. As available other street trees should be planted in these places. The lilac tree along the Oliver Street side of the park should be replaced.

Remove the lilac tree on the Oliver side of the park that has been supported for several years to encourage a new surge of growth without the desired effect.

RECOMMENDATIONS: *Install flagstone at the Oliver and Park Street entrance to the park and smooth out the terrain to allow for safe entrance to the park. Fertilize the rhododendrons beside the entrance. Aerate and re-seed the entire park. Crepe Myrtle trees where there is space is recommended.*

LIGHTING: *Sufficient light from street lights illuminate the park.*

MAINTENANCE: Mulch around the benches and every 2-3 years power wash the benches as needed. New vertical supports for the fence around this park are needed periodically.

CITIZEN SCOUT: Sarah Williams: 240 418-097 email: williamsmali@mac.com

**Chevy Chase Village Five Year Master Plan
For
HESKETH STREET RIGHT OF WAY
Drawn up by Parks and Green Spaces Committee
July 2013**

OVERALL ASSESSMENT: Because this open space and benches are so heavily used (ie. there are two soccer nets), the main need is for maintenance.

The goals in order of priority are:

INVASIVE PLANTS: The honeysuckle, ivy and weeds should be removed from the west side to allow the hostas, iris and other plants to rejuvenate. Poison ivy on the back fence should be sprayed every year.

HARDSCAPE: There are two benches. The bench on the right side should be moved to the left side where there is a high demand for seating space.

TREE HEALTH: The hybrid dogwood on the East side needs to be moved because the ground is too wet in that area and the tree is dying*. (The twin dogwood on the west side is thriving.) A good place for the drowning dogwood to be moved is farther to the rear of the space near the current location of the bench.

RECOMMENDATIONS: The trees should be mulched, fertilized and the vines growing up the trunks removed. The area closest to the sidewalk needs re-seeding every spring. It is a high-use area and becomes muddy in the spring.

LIGHTING: Sufficient light from street lights illuminate the park.

MAINTENANCE: Yearly re-seeding of grass and removal of invasive plants. Power wash the two benches when necessary.

CITIZEN SCOUT: Alice Kinter 301 656-3642
Email: kintera@verizon.net

Microsoft Word document attached

**Chevy Chase Village Five Year Master Plan
For
Betty English Garden in Brookville Road
EAST VILLAGE
Drawn up by Parks and Green Spaces Committee
October 2013**

HISTORY: On April 19, 1986, the Garden Club of Chevy Chase with the approval of the Village's Board of Managers formally dedicated this public easement Right of Way as The Betty English Garden on a small island where three streets merge (Oxford, Broad Branch and Brookville Road).

OVERALL ASSESSMENT: This park has had extensive improvement in the past two years. New pebbles *added* for the walkway *(that used to be oyster shells)*, *repairs made to the low split rail fence surrounding the park keeping it safe from automobiles and new shrubs and perennials planted as needed.* The Garden Club of Chevy Chase has done the work and continues to do the upkeep, weeding and watches over it for problems. Chevy Chase Village maintenance crew repairs the split rail fence and offers periodic help with watering and mulch.

The goals are:

INVASIVE PLANTS: Star of Bethlehem is slowly being dug out of the garden. The plants, hellebores, spring bulbs, oak leaf hydrangea, and ground cover have grown in well. The brick-in-cement borders of the pebble walk keep the rocks in the walk area and give definition to the garden.

HARDSCAPE: There is one bench in this park. *The path is made up of small pebbles held in place by brick-in-cement 2 inch high sides.*

TREE HEALTH: The trees in this island park will have to be replaced as they die. Hardwood, long-lived trees are recommended.

RECOMMENDATIONS: The neighbors compliment any person they catch sight of on how good the park looks. It is used by walkers, bicyclists and nearby residents. It requires weeding, hellebore and bulb dead leaf removal in the spring and mulch in the fall. The Garden Club of Chevy Chase members do this work and appreciate the Village's periodic help with fence repairs, watering and mulching.

**Chevy Chase Village Five Year Master Plan
For
Brookville Road Park/at Quincy
EAST VILLAGE
Drawn up by Parks and Green Spaces Committee
July 2013**

OVERALL ASSESSMENT: The space is well planted. There is adequate space for people and animals on leash to play. With the wire backing on the low split rail fence animals and children are secure from the traffic on the busy road. In the past five years stones have been added at the entrance gate to the park that take care of the problem of the muddy area near the gate. The mulched beds have helped to give definition to this park.

The goals are:

INVASIVE PLANTS: Ivy, wild grape and honeysuckle should be kept off tree trunks. Ivy growing on the north and south fences can be left but kept in check.

HARDSCAPE: The lone bench is well used. Two more benches in this park would encourage additional use of the space.

TREE HEALTH: The dead dogwood needs to be removed on the south side of the space and replaced with two under story trees such as dogwood or redbud.. There is some ivy growing up the trunks of trees that needs to be removed as well.

LIGHTING: Streetlight throws adequate illumination.

MAINTENANCE: Weed and mulch the beds two times a year. Keep invasive plants from growing up trees. Arborist should look at the health of dogwoods on the north side of the park and remove dead and dying trees and replace them with young and healthy trees.

RECOMMENDATIONS: The maintenance of mulched beds is important. Weeding and mulching is needed. If not, the mulched beds without plants could be sodded over. Another bench or two if possible placed along the perimeter of the park would increase the use of this park by all residents.

**Chevy Chase Village Five Year Master Plan
For
Newlands Park
Drawn up by Parks and Green Spaces Committee
July 2013**

OVERALL ASSESSMENT: Eleanor Ford and her brother bought trees for it and Chevy Chase Village maintains the park. On August 6, 2013 the police and fire Departments hosted a hot dog fest with fire trucks, ambulances, etc. on display for visits. It was part of National Night Out and a great success. Newlands Park was an excellent location for the party from 6 – 8 pm.

THE GOALS ARE: Encourage East Village residents to make use of the park as well as others from the West side of the Village.

INVASIVE PLANTS: Stop ivy in its tracks!

HARDSCAPE: Benches???

TREE HEALTH:

LIGHTING: Ample from streetlights on Connecticut Avenue.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Continue to find ways to use this park for the benefit of the residents of the Village.